

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 NEA-10 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /095 W  
-----009496 240752Z /10

R 231555Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4297  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMCONSUL THESALONIKI  
AMCONSUL TRIESTE  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
ZNE/AMCONSUL ZAGREB POUCH  
USMISSION USNATO  
USCINCUE

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EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: MPOL, YO, IS, UR, US, XF  
SUBJ: TITO'S REMARKS AT YUGOSLAV NATIONAL ARMY DAY CELEBRATION

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT TITO IN TOAST ON THE OCCASION OF  
YUGOSLAV NATIONAL ARMY DAY MADE IT CLEAR THAT A KEY ROLE  
OF THE ARMY IS TO MAINTAIN NATIONAL UNITY IN THE POST-TITO  
PERIOD. ON MIDDLE EAST HE AGAIN ACKNOWLEDGED ISRAEL'S  
RIGHT TO EXIST, AND ON US/YUGOSLAV RELATIONS HE EXPRESSED  
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OBVIOUS PLEASURE WITH RECENT IMPROVEMENTS, ESPECIALLY AS  
THEY REFLECT THE VALUE THAT THE WORLD AT LARGE PLACES  
ON YUGOSLAVIA'S CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONALISM, UNITY AND THE JNA. AT OFFICIAL  
BANQUET ON THE OCCASION OF YUGOSLAVIA'S NATIONAL  
ARMY DAY DECEMBER 22 TITO MADE A NUMBER OF NOTEWORTHY

REMARKS IN RESPONDING TO A TOAST OFFERED HIM BY SECDEF GENERAL LJUBICIC. HIS PRIMARY FOCUS WAS THE ROLE OF THE ARMY IN A POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA. EVOKING MEMORIES OF WWII, TITO STRESSED THAT THE JNA HAD STOPPED THE FRATRICIDAL STRIFE AND "SEWN BROTHERHOOD AND UNITY" IN ESTABLISHING THE POST-WAR YUGOSLAV STATE. "AND I THINK THAT OUR ARMY HAS THAT ROLE EVEN TODAY....THE ARMY MUST VIGILANTLY GUARD NOT ONLY THE BORDERS BUT "BE PRESENT INSIDE YUGOSLAVIA AS WELL, BE UNIFIED WITHOUT CONSIDERATION OF THE NATIONALITIES THAT COMPOSE IT." TITO COMPARED NATIONALISM TO A CANCER AND SAID ITS SUPPRESSION IS "STILL VERY NECESSARY". A UNIFIED ARMY, HE SAID, IS "THE BEST GUARANTEE FOR THE UNITY OF OUR PEOPLE....OUTSIDE, PEOPLE ARE ASKING CONSTANTLY WHAT WILL BE TOMORROW, SAY, WHEN I GO...NOTHING CAN HAPPEN HERE, FOR OUR ARMY INSURES THAT IN SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRY WE GO ALONG THE PATH WE HAVE CHOSEN." CLEARLY CHARGING HIS LISTENERS, TITO SAID, "IT IS UP TO YOU TOO, DEAR COMRADE GENERALS, ADMIRALS AND OFFICERS, TO GUARD THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR REVOLUTION...THE ARMY TODAY IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR, NOT ONLY IN THE DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY BUT IN ITS DEVELOPMENT. I AM CALLING UPON YOU FOR EVEN GREATER DEVOTION IN THE RESPECT, IN RESPECT TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ARMY, ITS FIGHTING READINESS AND THE PRESERVATION OF BROTHERHOOD AND UNITY".

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2. THIS WAS TITO'S MOST FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT IN SOME TIME ON SUBJECT OF NATIONALISM AND THE ROLE OF THE JNA WITH RESPECT THERETO. HE WAS CLEARLY CONCERNED LEST EVEN THE CURRENT, LIMITED NATIONALIST FERMENT INFECT THE RANKS OF THE MILITARY. IN REPEATEDLY ADDRESSING THE NEED TO PRESERVE INTERNAL UNITY, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MILITARY WAS EACH TIME STRESSED, WITH THE ROLE OF THE PARTY PER SE IN THIS EFFORT GIVEN SCANT ATTENTION. WHILE THE JNA'S PREEMINENT RESPONSIBILITY DOUBTLESS REMAINS DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY AGAINST EXTERNAL ATTACK, ITS ROLE AS INTERNALLY UNIFYING FORCE SEEMED ELEVATED TO NEARLY THE SAME LEVEL. AND IF BRIEF PASSAGE ON YUGOSLAVIA'S WARTIME EXPERIENCE, THE NAZIS ARE NOT EVEN MENTIONED, WHILE CHETNIK AND USTASHI INSTIGATED NATIONALIST STRIFE WAS STRESSED.

3. US/YUGOSLAV AND SOVIET/YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. REFERRING TO HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION, TITO CLAIMED THAT "THIS TIME, DESPITE CERTAIN DIFFERENCES IN OUR TALKS, WE SUCCEEDED STILL FURTHER IN HAVING YUGOSLAVIA ACCEPTED

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AS IT IS..." HE SAID GOOD RELATIONS WERE IN BOTH  
COUNTRIES' INTEREST AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THEY  
DEVELOP "IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY". CLEARLY PLEASED WITH  
THE RECENT UPSWING IN US/YUGOSLAV RELATIONS, HE NOTED THAT  
US CONSIDERS IT "GOOD" TO HAVE "GOOD RELATIONS"  
WITH YUGOSLAVIA, "WHICH IS ALSO OUR WISH." FURTHER ON  
RELATIONS WITH THE US, HE SAID, "WE, UNDERSTANDBLY, ALSO  
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HAVE OUR OBJECTION, WHICH WE STATE OPENLY. SOMETIMES THEY ARE NOT GLAD ABOUT IT, TRUE, BUT THEY ALWAYS WISH TO HEAR WHAT WE THINK BECAUSE THEY ENDEAVOR TO VIEW THINGS REALISTICALLY." HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE TO YUGOSLAVIA OF WHAT "THOSE ABROAD THINK ABOUT US, WE MUST WATCH CAREFULLY THE INTERNAL BEHAVIOR OF OUR COUNTRY." CITING YUGOSLAVIA'S "EXREMELY VALUED" POSITION IN THE WORLD, HE DISMISSED AS "UTTER NONSENSE" OCCASIONAL ALLEGATIONS IN "FOREIGN PROPAGANDA THAT AFTER I LEAVE SOMEONE WILL IMMEDIATELY ENTER OUR TERRITORY."

4. MIDDLE EAST. IN REITERATION OF WHAT YUGOSLAVS CONSIDER ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF JUST ME PEACE, TITO UNDERLINED ISRAEL'S RIFHT TO EXIST IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE HE HAD EMPLOYED AT EXCHANGE OF TOASTS DURING RECENT VISIT TO ROMANIA. HE TERMED IT "ILLUSION" TO THINK THAT "ISRAEL CAN BE THROWN INTO THE SEA. SUCH REASONING WAS A GREAT MISTAKE AND I SPOKE ABOUT IT ALREADY IN 1967 DURING MY VISIT TO CAIRO. ONE MUST BE A REALIST, I SAID EVEN THEN, ONE MUST VIEW THINGS REALISTICALLY. I ALSO STRESSED RECENTLY THAT ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO EXIST..." TITO'S REMARKS IN ROMANIA ON ISRAEL AND THIS RESTATEMENT THEREOF, CONSTITUTE, IN OUR VIEW, SIGNIFICANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE SHIFT IN GOY'S PUBLIC POSITION ON ME ISSUE, NOTWITHSTANDING FACT THAT YUGOSLAVS' SUPPORT OF PLO AND CAUSE OF ARAB UNITY IS UNDIMISHED AND THAT THEIR POSITION ON SADAT INITIATIVE AND CAIRO CONFERENCE HAS UNTIL NOW BEEN LARGELY, IF RESERVEDLY, NEGATIVE.  
EAGLEBURGER

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## Message Attributes

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